

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: KS, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK'S LIBERATION DAY ADDRESS

REF: SEOUL 6064 (DTG P R 050852Z AUG 76)

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 15, PRESIDENT PAK ISSUED HIS
LIBERATION DAY ADDRESS WHICH WAS READ AT FORMER NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY BUILDING BY PRIME MINISTER. ADDRESS URGED NORTH TO
RESUME UNCONDITIONALLY SOUTH/NORTH DIALOGUE AND TO ABANDON
DAYDREAM OF IMPOSING COMMUNISM ON SOUTH BY FORCE OF ARMS.
PAK NOTED THAT SOUTH CAN REUNIFY FATHERLAND PEACEFULLY
THROUGH SAEMAUL SPIRIT. ADDRESS WAS EXHORTORY BUT BROKE NO
NEW GROUND. ONLY KOREA HERALD AND SEOUL SINMUN CARRIED FULL
TEXTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS PRESIDENT PROMISED AT HIS CHINHAEE PRESS CONFERENCE
REPORTED AUGUST 5, HIS AUGUST 15 LIBERATION DAY SPEECH MADE
NO STARTLING NEW ANNOUNCEMENT IN EITHER
EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL POLICY AND BROKE NO NEW GROUND. PAK DID
URGE IN THIS 31ST YEAR OF NATIONAL LIBERATION THAT NORTH
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KOREA RESUME UNCONDITIONALLY SOUTH/NORTH DIALOGUE AND THAT

NORTH ABANDON QTE ANACHRONISTIC, PREPOSTEROUS DAYDREAM UNQTE
OF COMMUNIZING ENTIRE DIVIDED NATION.

2. MUCH OF SPEECH SUMMARIZED STEPS SOUTH HAD TAKEN
TO ENCOURAGE SOUTH/NORTH DIALOGUE, DEPLORING NORTH'S
PROPAGANDA, IT'S TUNNEL BUILDING ETC. AND ITS
GENERAL INTRANSIGENCE. PAK EXHORTED SOUTH TO CONTINUE ITS
ECONOMIC PROGRESS, LISTING VERY REAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROKG
AND PEOPLE SINCE 1945. HE NOTED HISTORICALLY THAT HWARANG
SPIRIT (A MILITARY-LIKE MOVEMENT TO UNIFY COUNTRY IN SILLA
TIMES) HAD WORKED ONCE AND SAEMAUL (OR NEW COMMUNITY MOVEMENT)
SPIRIT CAN UNIFY COUNTRY NOW. WITH THESE REKINDLED TRADITIONS
AND CLEAN AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT, ROK PEOPLE
CAN SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOME ALL OBSTAVCLES TO EVENTUAL REUNI-
FICATION.

3. LIBERATION DAY ADDRESS WAS READ THIS YEAR BY PRIME
MINISTER CHOE KYU-HA. APPROXIMATELY 1700 INCLUDING DIPLIMATIC
CORPS ATTENDED CEREMONIES AT FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
BUILDING (NOW CITIZEN'S HALL ANNEX), THE THIRD SINCE AUGUST
1974 WHEN MRS. PAK WAS KILLED AT CEREMONY BY AN ASSASSIN.
THIS WAS SECOND YEAR PAK DID NOT ATTEND.

4. LOCAL PRESS SEIZED ON CALLS FOR RENEWAL SOUTH/NORTH
DIALOGUE FOR HEADLINES AND LEAD INS TO PREDICTABLY EXTENSIVE
STORIES. FOLLOW-UP EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN LACKLUSTER CONCEN-
TRATING ON REVIEW OF HISTORIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ROK SINCE
LIBERATION. ONLY KOREAN HERALD AND SEOUL SHINMUN HAVE CARRIED
TEXTS.

5. COMMENT: CLEARLY A "HO-HUM" EFFORT.
STERN

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